

EXHIBIT KKK

Arctic Cat

Cleaner & meaner

EFI engines, new crossover sled, fun electronics lead new lineup

ABY MARK SAVAGE
rctic Cat may do well to change its name to Efficient Cat for next season.

Certainly its message for 2006 is, as snowmobile product manager Joey Hallstrom says, "The days of high-horsepower, big cc engines is done." Efficiency (in the clean air sense) is Job 1.

To that end, the Cat engineers are pressing forward with cleaner, more efficient engines for next season. But don't think they've buried the fun in

their saddlebags. There's plenty, plus Arctic Cat's electronics wizards have created new items to put a charge in your saddle, not to mention your helmet!

HIGH PERFORMANCE + ENGINE EFFICIENCY

First, the engine story!
It's no secret that 600cc engines lead the sales parade each year, so its natural that Cat is pumping a lot of thought and technology into its 600cc units. This year it adds the 600cc EFI II engine to its F6 mainstay.

The 600 helps Cat meet 2006 emissions standards by using an exhaust pipe sensor to cut carbon monoxide emissions by 25%. From a corporate standpoint that's great, but

Hallstrom says it also offers additional benefits to riders. First, it helps prevent cold drive-away hesitation, an annoyance when the mercury has slipped into those single and negative digits. In addition, the new system also boosts engine acceleration, making for smoother, quicker starts—always a plus in a performance sled.

Cat's addition of the 600 EFI II, plus its decision to offer only the 900 EFI on its ZR900 in '06, means

that among its high-performance sleds only the F7 and F8 have carburetors, as well as EFI engine options. Don't expect that to last for long!

Also aiding the high-performance sleds only the F5, F6, F7 and ZR9. Cat has worked on the suspensions, lowering the center of gravity and recalibrating the standard models for groomed trail riding. Most important, though, is a new, lighter weight Hacksaw track with 1-inch lugs that was jointly developed with Canoplast.

For its Sno Pro models, Cat gives the sleds more ground clearance. Fox Float shocks with a more aggressive calibration to absorb the bumps and a 2-inch rear arm shock designed into the skid frame. The track this season will feature a 1.38-inch lug, and all Sno Pro models will come with matching color hoods and pans, giving them a more unified, aggressive appearance.

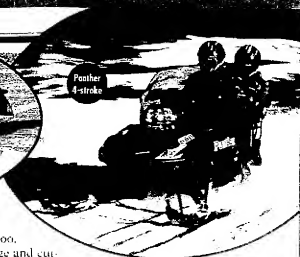
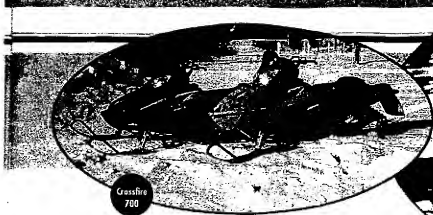
Note too that Firecat EFI R models will use the chain and sprocket style reverse gear and feature the standard suspension package. Also, fans of red Firecats will have to wait. For now that color has been dropped from the lineup.

CROSSOVERS GROWING

While the engine news is important, Cat's move into the hybrid market with the new Crossfire (Crossover mixed with Firecat, get it?) may generate the most excitement among riders.

Crossfire is based on Cat's popular





M-series mountain sled and features a rider-forward design. Crossfire also hooks the rider up with a 136-inch Ripsaw track with 1.25-inch lugs to give the sled more off-trail powder pounding ability.

Folks get two engine choices here with the Suzuki 600cc EFI or 700cc EFI, to give the sled plenty of oomph (up to 140 hp) when you press the throttle.

Crossfire comes in black or orange. (See our First Ride review, p. 37, for more details.)

TRAIL PERFORMANCE

Certainly Crossfire is a hottie, but there's plenty of fun for us 45- to 55-year-olds who enjoy good trail performance. That's where the Sabercat lineup comes in. All Sabercats will be LX models this year, featuring electric start and reverse, with one exception. The new Sabercat 500 EFI will be available as a standard model, too. Cat upgrades the sled's 80-horse 500cc engine with EFI to get better fuel economy and cut emissions. Plus Cat says customers have been requesting this package for several years. So this one should sell well.

In addition, Cat has reworked the throttle lever to give it a lighter feel, making this Sabercat more fun on the trails. A romp near Cat's headquarters proved this one will ditch bang with the best of them and certainly can get some air too. Note that electric start and reverse are optional on the 500 EFI.

Since it's offering the new 600 EFI II on its performance sleds, you can be sure Cat is upgrading the EFI system on the Sabercat 600 LX

for the 2006 model year too, again boosting gas mileage and cutting emissions.

FAMILY AND UTILITY

Arctic Cat's family sled segment mainly sees color changes, with the F120 and Z570 models being available in green and orange, while the Z370 and 440 are only available in green for 2006. More substantive changes include hooked handlebars on the 570 models and the addition of a quieter track.

Cat also replaces the old blow-molded skis on the Z series sleds with saddleless skis to help cut weight and improve performance.

The bigger news comes on the utility sled portion of the lineup. Cat introduces a ground-up new Bearcat with higher front-end ride height, plus a new model. The new W7 (wide-track) Turbo uses the T660's engine, a turbocharged Suzuki 4-stroke triple.

Bearcats also will feature a track with 1.25-inch lugs to help it float better in deep powder; electronic gauges; a heavy-duty hitch; new tunnel; redesigned hood and headlights; dual-runner skis; revamped handlebars; a removable passenger's seat; and hinged under-seat storage. Plus, it has a straight-rail, 8-inch rear wheel skidframe for better towing and ride.

Remote start also will be available on the Turbo and Bearcat W7, and Cat's Multi Rack Platform will be offered as an accessory to increase the sled's hauling ability. Cat also adds electric start to the Bearcat 570. Colors? All Bearcats are blue!

TOURING SLEDS/ ELECTRONICS

Two-up riders have a lot to think about this year, too.

First, Panthera is being dropped, so Cat is adding a new Panther 4-stroke as its two-up price leader. The Panther, which features the 660cc 4-stroke that generates 110 horsepower, starts at \$6,999, a price that's slightly more than the former Panthera 550 but well below the former Panthera 600.

Available on all the Panthers is Cat's Quiet Track that reduces noise and vibration, new saddleless skis and wrap-around rear racks. The Panther 570 also offers reverse, mirrors, a high windshield, two-passenger seat with backrest, heated handgrips and an accessory outlet. Remote electric start also is being offered for the first time on the touring models.

Cat's not done there. It's adding a T660 Touring LE and Touring Turbo LE, too. The hot news here is heated seats with separate driver and passenger controls. Plus the seats have three heat settings and are quick to warm. In fact, in a brief test ride we had to turn the heat to low because it got so toasty. The driver's control knob is just to the right and above the 12-watt power outlet.

The switches for hand and thumb warmers also have been relocated to the left handlebar, at customers' request, Cat says. And the handlebars themselves were redesigned and cleaned up. Buttons are large enough to be used by a gloved hand



CAT INTROS NEW BRAIN BUCKETS!

With a new, optional brain bucket, you can now keep your head warm and dry while you're out on the snow.

The new brain bucket is made of a lightweight, durable material and is designed to fit snugly over your head and ears.

The brain bucket is available in two colors: black and white. It is also available in a custom color to match your snowmobile.

The brain bucket is easy to install and remove. It is simply placed over your head and secured with the chin strap.

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and controls are backlit, including the e-stop button, for better night use. Cat also adds a bar pad to protect riders.

However, there's more to get amped up about... Cat has developed a cool communications system with AM/FM and satellite radio, that allows driver-to-driver, or driver-to-passenger communications. It's available on the T660 Turbo Touring LE and Turbo LE models. Cat hopes the system will encourage more family and group rides.

The system offers 15 channels and is operated by a push-to-talk switch just below the hand and thumb warmer controls. Plus there's the radio, including satellite radio, so you can dial in a ton of stations, or you can adapt it to include an MP3 player or iPod.

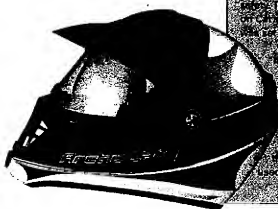
There's a tiny antenna by the sleds left mirror and the radio control panel is right next to the speedometer on the dash. It's quite easy to adjust the station and sound level there.

Gary Gustafson, Cat's group leader for electrical engineering on snowmobiles, says the goal is to make any new electronics "part of the sled's central nervous system," so that it's

easy to use and becomes second nature to the rider.

His team seems to have succeeded with the communications system. Running in a large group near Thief River Falls, the system worked flawlessly with the sleds spread out for easily a half mile. Just be careful if you tune in to some really fast-paced music. You'll find yourself hurrying to keep up with it!

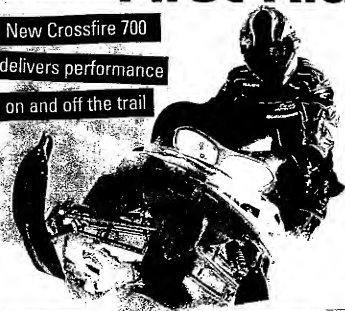
Didn't get to test the talk to passenger portion, but this is an intercom type system like you see on motorcycles and there's no need to press any buttons to talk to the other person. Could be fun if you enjoy chatting while on the trail! ☺



CROSSFIRE 700

Engine: Suzuki 698cc, 140 hp
Cooling: Liquid
Exhaust: APV w/ tuned pipe and canister
Drive: Clutch: Arctic (rpm sensing)
Driven: Arctic (roller cam) ACT drive system
Sit/stance: 42-44 in., adjustable
Front suspension: AWS-VI double-wishbone A-arms with light-weight aluminum Arctic Cat gas (IFP) shocks and adjustable preload springs with sway bar
Rear suspension: FastTrack Long-Travel System slide rail, adjustable torsion springs, lightweight aluminum Arctic Cat (IFP) shocks, Torque Sensing Link rear arm
Track: 15x136x1.25-in. w/Ripsaw pattern
Fuel capacity: 12.4 gal.
Dry weight: 486 lbs.
MSRP: \$8,999

**New Crossfire 700
delivers performance
on and off the trail**



Crossfire
700

What happens when you cross Cat's M-series and Firecat lines? Well, Cat says the result is a new 2006 Crossfire, a sled set up for performance trail handling with deep snow capabilities.

Dealers began taking orders in early January for the Crossfire, Cat's mid-year release that's available as a 700 in black or orange (MSRP \$8,999) and sleds started coming off the line soon thereafter. This tough kitty will sport the 140-horsepower Suzuki 700 EFI engine.

Cat expanded the line for its 2006 lineup, offering a 600 version featuring the new 118 hp 600 EFI II engine along with its Crossfire 700.

OUR IMPRESSIONS:

AniSnow recently got its first ride on this impressive new orange snow thrower on the trails and open fields around Thief River Falls and it had us grinning all day.

Like other manufacturers, **Cat** went with a more ride-forward design including mountain handlebars and a reinforced steering post to help riders transition from sitting to standing. Wider running boards, like the ones found on the M-series, also are stan-

dard on Crossfire. We have found the mountain handlebars to actually work great in the twisties and we're big fans of hooked handlebars. Also, the wider running boards make it a lot easier to move around on the sled.

The Crossfires also have the weight-saving ACT Diamond Drive System that replaces the chaincase with a planetary gear drive situated on the PTO side of the chassis. In addition, the sled offers removable side panels that allow quick access to the engine, clutch and brake, though in our rides we had some difficulty re-attaching the panels with the small cotter pin that holds them in place.

Up front, the Crossfire has the time-tested AWS-VI double wishbone A-arm suspension, Arctic Cat gas (IFP) shocks and an adjustable 42-44-inch stance. In the back the new Cat gets the FastTrack Long Travel System slide-rail suspension with Arctic Cat (IFP) shocks and a Torque Sensing Link rear arm. The Crossfire also features a deeper lugged 15x136x1.25-inch Ripsaw track, which is great for digging in to the hard-packed snow found riding late in the season on busy trails.

The 136-inch track finally hauls in all the growling torque of the 700

engine and the mogul mashing capability of this suspension and track combination had us anxiously anticipating every lumpy section of trail. With that big track, we were able to play in a little deep stuff alongside the trails with ease. Plus it'll jump transitions like a 600!

"Cat got the ergonomics right with reconfigured handlebars that are comfortable and hi-low beams that are no longer changed with the brake lever," says test rider Les Pinz.

Jerry Bassett, our founding editor, was even more upbeat.

"Crossfire is the BEST Cat I've ever ridden - excellent rider ergonomics, the new wider, longer track blends with 700cc twin's amazing power... This sled is extremely rider-friendly and inspires great confidence, even in old guys like me. Loved riding this sled at speed in the ditches in TRF!"

At only 486 lbs., the power-to-weight ratio on the new 700 is more than a little impressive and you can really feel it on the trail. If you are a long-track Cat sled rider and haven't ridden a crossover sled yet, you'll want to try this one. You may never go back to the short track! ☼